



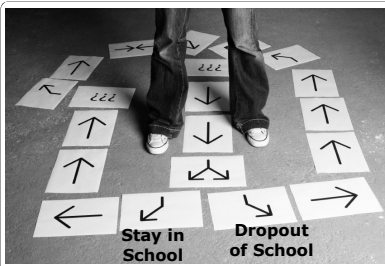
Dropout to Graduation

Transforming Pathways for Youth with Disabilities



National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities






In Context

- One high school student drops out every 26 seconds
- On average, youth with disabilities drop out at significantly higher rates than youth without disabilities
- Youth with emotional disturbances and learning disabilities drop out at higher rates than their peers

Predictable Pathway



Elementary Years

- Difference exist between graduates and dropouts as early as Kindergarten
- Researchers have identified signs of leaving as early as first grade
- Early signs of Aggression may suggest problems later on

What's Astounding



Elementary Years

• By the third grade, dropouts can be distinguished from graduates with a 66% accuracy using attendance rates alone.

Moving to Third Grade



Elementary Years

• Students held back as early as K-4th grade are five times more likely to dropout



Effects of Retention



Middle School Years

Predictors of Dropout

- Poor Attendance
- Poor Behavior
- Failing Math
- Failing English

Middle School Predictors

Middle School Years

- Students must be present and engaged in order to learn
- Only 14% of students who do not attend school regularly will graduate on time

School Attendance

Middle School Years


- Students with bad behavior records have only a 17% chance of graduating on time
- Low or failing marks in discipline or behavior are primary indicators of dropouts.
- Only 43% of students with an emotional disturbance graduated with a diploma

Bad Attitude Equals Bad News

Middle School Years


- Sixth graders who fail English or Math have only a 10% chance of graduating on time or a 20% chance of graduating one year later

Failing English and Math



Middle School Years

- Students who repeat middle school are 11 times more likely to dropout



Effects of Retention

"I wish I could say that repeating the grade helped me to learn better. Maybe for the first few months but soon I was behind the rest of the class again. It wasn't until I began to get the kind of help I needed that I was able to keep up."



High School Years

Predictors of Dropout

- 9th Grade Retention
- Too many absences
- Insufficient credits
- Failing core subjects
- Low scores on assessment tests
- Disengagement in school

Moving Into High School



High School Years

- Students who fail the ninth grade more than once only have a 50/50 chance of graduation



Ninth Grade the Make or Break Year

High School Years

Emerging Trends in grades 11 and 12 that lead to dropping out

- Loss of credits
- Disciplinary action
- Low scores on high stakes testing

A Discouraging Trend

High School Years

Dropping out:

- Is complex
- Does not happen overnight
- Poses an even greater risk for students with disabilities
- Is predictable
- Does not have to be the final verdict for at-risk students.

Dropout

Actions We Can Take

- Increase school attendance
- Teach Problem Solving and appropriate social skills
- Provide effective instruction to teach career and academic skills

Keeping Students on the Graduation Path

Actions We Can Take

- Develop early warning systems
- Identify students at risk of dropping out
- Identify incoming students with histories of multiple risk indicators
- Monitor students' sense of engagement
- Collect and document accurate information on student withdrawals

Diagnostic Interventions

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Actions We Can Take

- Know and use resources
- Focus on learning
- Self-advocacy training
- Teach time management Skills
- Take course that combine skills with future interests
- Select appropriate courses, recover lost credits (help with this bullet)
- Promote student engagement

Empower Students

Actions We Can Take

- Maintain high expectations for learning and support for all students
- Cultivate caring and supportive teachers
- Promote positive adult-adult relationships between/among teachers, staff, and administrators
- Help students feel safe and actively promote involvement in co-curricula and extra-curricula activities

Create a Supportive School Climate

Slide 17

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I think all in all this slide turned out well. But as usual I need your expertise and know how to massage out the rough spots. Please SME do your thing... Your thoughts.

Naida Alexandria Boyer, 12/15/2009



Actions We Can Take

Programs don't change kids-relationships do. Every child needs one adult who's irrationally committed to his or her future"

Bill Miller (2007). The Last Dropout

Assign Caring Adult Advocates



Actions We Can Take

- Offer a wide variety of ways to participate
- Support family participation in any school or community opportunity
- Account for cultural and individual differences
- Enable participation for all who want to contribute, regardless of skill level
- Providing support to improve participation skills.

Encourage Parental Involvement



Actions We Can Take

- After School Programs
- Mentoring
- Career Training
- Attendance Incentives
- Parental Coaching
- Arts and Extra-curricular Activities
- Volunteerism
- Scholarship Opportunities
- Work-based Learning Opportunities

Community and Stakeholder Involvement

Slide 21

NAB7 Please let me know what you think of text on this slide. There may be a more succinct way to talk about this. But I thought I would start out with more so that we can cull down to less if neccessary. Your thoughts?

Naida Alexandria Boyer, 12/15/2009



- Final Thoughts**
- Intervene early and often
 - Focus on alterable variables
 - Link interventions to warning indicators
 - Use proven practices
 - Engage families and communities
 - Consider graduation as the only acceptable outcome!!

Graduate, Yes We Can!



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